

They are shaping today's youth and tomorrow's future. As their representative in Congress, I am proud to congratulate Smyser School's alumni, students, teachers, and staff on its achievements over the last 75 years, and I wish them the best of luck and continued growth in the future.

#### SUPPORTING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2008*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I support Jewish American Heritage Month during the month of May as an important opportunity to recognize Jewish contributions to American history and culture. Ever since the first Jews arrived in colonial America in 1654, Jewish Americans have strengthened and influenced all aspects of American society. Through education, science, popular culture, literature, government and military service, Jewish men and women have greatly contributed to American society. Jewish Americans and their contributions are celebrated and recognized throughout Jewish American Heritage Month.

Jewish American Heritage Month gives the people of our Nation the opportunity to thank and recognize those Jewish Americans who have contributed to the advancement of our country, while it also presents us with the wonderful opportunity to foster religious tolerance. In my home state of Texas, from the discovery and development of oil fields to the opening of cattle ranches, Jewish people have had an immense impact. Even in the most improbable of environments, Texas Jews built prosperous communities. They established businesses, hospitals, synagogues, cemeteries and religious schools. Today Jewish Americans are seen as a fundamental community in the "melting pot" of Texas.

Jewish Americans were also among those who worked to establish the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909. The Jewish community contributed greatly to the NAACP's founding and continued financing. Many Jewish Americans, such as NAACP co-founder Henry Moskowitz, put forth a lifetime of work in promoting inter-ethnic, inter-racial and inter-religious understanding between Jewish and African-Americans. The civil rights activism of many Jewish Americans in partnership with African-American civil rights leaders served to make the American Dream a reality for so many Americans.

Jewish American Heritage Month is important to fostering and achieving the key human right of religious tolerance. Jewish American Heritage Month gives us all the opportunity to honor the accomplishments of Jewish Americans and to realize that our Nation is a wonderful combination of cultures. I join all Americans in celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month and the many ways Jewish Americans have contributed to the greatness of the United States of America.

#### TRIBUTE TO GLORIA MCJILTON

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Gloria McJilton, recipient of the 2008 Dundalk Optimist Club Citizen of the Year Award, the community's highest honor.

Gloria grew up in Dundalk, and has been active in the community ever since high school. Her husband, Richard McJilton, was honored with the same award in 1984 by the original Dundalk Chamber of Commerce. Gloria and Richard work together at a Nationwide Insurance office in Dundalk, and support each other in their various community endeavors.

Playing an integral role in a web of community organizations has let Gloria touch the lives of many in her community. She is currently the president of the Women's Club of Dundalk, which she feels is the most rewarding community work she does. Her work through the Women's Club has a direct impact on the community, through awarding scholarships and supporting local organizations.

In addition to her local community activities, Gloria has been involved in county and state activities as well. Baltimore County Councilman John Olszewski, Sr., appointed Gloria to serve on the Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission. She was chosen by Governors Parris Glendening and Robert Ehrlich to serve on the Maryland Judicial Nominating Commission, on which she sat for 12 years.

Gloria is a founding member and treasurer of the Greater Dundalk Alliance. She also served as elected chairperson on the Baltimore County Commission of Arts and Sciences, and has been a member of the Dundalk Concert Association for 32 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Gloria McJilton on being named the 2008 Dundalk Optimist Club Citizen of the Year. Her legacy as an active resident of Dundalk will be forever remembered through the impact her work has had on her community. It is with great pride that I congratulate Gloria McJilton on her exemplary service to the Dundalk community.

#### HONORING THE CHARITABLE SERVICE OF LILIAM MACHADO AND HER WORK WITH THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2008*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one of south Florida's great citizens, Liliam Machado. Liliam was born in Matanzas, Cuba, and came to this country at age 18, while fleeing Fidel Castro's communist regime. Since then, she, as well as her husband Gus Machado, have become tremendous civic leaders and examples for all south Floridians. Liliam has shown extraordinary dedication to her work with the American Cancer Society during her two decades of involvement with the organization. She has been on

the executive board of the Society's Miami-Dade unit for the past 6 years and is currently its President.

She has helped organize many charitable events in our community for the American Cancer Society and her proudest achievement was to bring the Relay for Life to the city of Miami. In doing so, she helped create the first cancer relay specifically targeted at the Hispanic community. Her efforts helped raise awareness and aided in the successful prevention and early detection of cancer within the Hispanic community in south Florida.

Liliam's life has been one devoted to helping others and the passion she has brought to her work has enriched our community. I am proud to call her a friend and I am honored to share with you all her achievements.

#### HONORING CAPTAIN CURTIS FITZGERALD

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2008*

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize to Captain Curtis Fitzgerald for his distinguished military service and service to Texas veterans.

In 1969, Captain Fitzgerald began what has become a life-long service to his nation. Just thirty days after completing flight school, Captain Fitzgerald went to Vietnam with the 189th Assault Helicopter Company to fly Huey Helicopters. Captain Fitzgerald fought in major battles such as the Battle of Hamburger Hill, where he flew multiple re-supply missions and was shot down for the first time, but certainly not the last time.

During the Siege of Ben Het, Captain Fitzgerald's aircraft received 103 bullet holes during another re-supply mission. Despite the damage, he managed to complete the mission without a single casualty. In the 1600 hours he flew during combat, Captain Fitzgerald was shot down a total of six times.

In addition to serving as a Flight Leader, Captain Fitzgerald served as the Air Mission Commander for the initial invasion of Cambodia. It was during the on-going Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrols into Cambodia and Laos that Captain Fitzgerald was shot down again, this time while helping to identify enemy positions. He managed to not only identify their position, but return the damaged aircraft back to safety.

Captain Fitzgerald went above and beyond his call to duty when he volunteered to extend his deployment for six more months to ensure the incoming units had adequate experience. Considering all this, it is no wonder Captain Fitzgerald received a Silver Star medal, three Distinguished Flying Cross medals, three Bronze Star medals, nineteen Air medals, and one Purple Heart for his tour in Vietnam.

After completing his degree at the University of Houston, Captain Fitzgerald returned to Palestine, but his dedication to the military did not end. He has continued to work closely with the Veterans Administration, various Veterans Service Organizations, and has worked extensively with Palestine-area Post Traumatic Stress Disorder support groups. Fellow men and women in uniform tout Captain Fitzgerald's dedication to ensuring that those returning from war receive assistance.